[English]

Public Distribution System in Delhi

5712. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System in Delhi is in total shambles in as much as essential commodities are not available at the shops and the card holders have to go a number of times to get their ration;

(b) whether there is an urgent need for opening more fair price shops, kerosene oil depots and fixing of maximum ceiling on the number of cards with the shop/depot; and

(c) if so, concrete measures taken to improve the Public Distribution System in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir. Delhi Administration has, however, reported that for a period in June, 1991, there was delay in the availability of rice, wheat and sugar in some areas due to labour problems in FCI godowns at Narela, Cheora and Shakti Nagar.

(b) and (c). Delhi Administration has reported that new fair price shops and kerosene oil depots are opened, where necessary, on the basis of periodical reviews taking into account the number of cards attached to the FPS/kerosene oil depots and viability of the shops/depots.

Demand of Employees of Super Bazar

5713. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long-standing dispute regarding pay scales and other demands of the employees of Super Bazar of Delhi has been settled;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in the settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). The important demands of the staff Unions of Super Bazar, Delhi, relating to fresh revision of Pay scales and D.A. structure, grant of L.T.C. facilities at par with Central Government employees and demand of sale of goods to employees at concessional price are pending adjudication before Hon. Industrial Tribunal Delhi.

The other demands of the staff unions relate to extension of Gazetted holidays to Super Bazar employees, regularisation of all piece rated and daily wages workers, upgradation of the post of "packing cleaners" to the level of 'Packers' in higher scale, extension of better medical facilities like C.G.H.S. to Super Bazar employees, recognition of the staff unions etc.

(c) The management of Super Bazar considered certain demands of the employees on merit and unilaterally announced/ extended number of benefits to them, some of which are as under:

(i) 'An adjustable advance Payment' of Rs. 100/- alongwith extra Medical Allowance of Rs. 20/- per month to all employees pending decision of the Industrial Tribunal.

(ii) Increase in Casual Leave of the staff from 15 to 24 with effect from 1.1.1991.

(iii) Upgardation of posts of the 'Packing Cleaners' in the higher scale.

Managing Committee of the Super Bazar has always been very sympathetic to legitimate demands of the employees and holding meeting with the representatives of the employees.

[*Translation*]

Time Given for National and International News in Regional News Bulletin

5714. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government in regard to allotment of time for national and international news out of the time fixed for regional news bulletins of States on Doordarshan;

(b) whether out of the 15 minutes time about 10 minutes are taken by non-local news and the same news are repeated again in the evening news telecast in National Bulletin at 8.40 p.m.; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to give importance to regional news by removing this anomaly?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). No fixed time has been allocated for National, International and Regional news in the news bulletins telecast from the Regional Kendras of Doordarshan. While local news items are given prominence in these news bulletins, it is considered necessary to include important national international news items in order to meet the requirements of viewers who understand only the local language.

[*English*]

Loans to SC/ST Under NREP

5715. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank employees and other middlemen while sanctioning loans to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections under NREP have committed some irregularities in Coastal districts and Warangal and Kareemnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government conducted any enquiry into the matter against the erring persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a). Union Government have not received any information regarding irregularities by Bank employees and other middlemen while sanctioning loans to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Weaker Sections in Coastal Districts and Warangal and Kareemnagar Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Edible oil Extraction unit

5716. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an edible oil extraction unit in Chithara oil palm estate area near Punalur in Kerala; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of palm oil extraction